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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, our light and guide, lead our Senators with Your wisdom. Keep them from being embittered by ingratitude or pettiness as they refuse to be satisfied with any effort less than their best. May the voice of history warn them of the paths that lead to national disaster. Lord, give them the wisdom to follow Your precepts, trusting You to direct their steps. Help them to be as eager to forgive others as they are to seek forgiveness. By Your grace empower them to be better than they are, wiser than they know, and stronger than they dream. We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to debate the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The vote on the motion to invoke cloture on that nomination will occur at 5:30 p.m. today.

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, nursing our economy back to health is not just about giving it the right short-term

treatments; it is about setting a new, responsible foundation for our future security and stability; it is about recognizing that what got us into this mess will not get us out of this mess; it is about making sure this kind of crisis can never again threaten American families.

There are three things above all else I wanted to see in President Obama's budget: No. 1, a plan to put Americans back to work; No. 2, a plan to ease our deep deficit, bring fiscal discipline back to our government, and leave our children a stronger economy; and finally, No. 3, a plan that will strengthen Nevada's economy and make Nevadans safer.

As far as I am concerned, the President has gone three for three. Regarding jobs: Ensuring every American who wants to work can find a job is the top priority of the American people and it is the top priority of President Obama's budget. His proposed tax cuts will encourage small businesses to keep workers on the job, hire new ones, and give those employees bigger paychecks, and it will encourage entrepreneurs to start new companies and encourage existing owners to grow their businesses, which will in turn grow our economy.

This budget is also about smart investing. It looks forward to building industries of the future by creating clean energy jobs that can never be outsourced and jobs in infrastructure, science, technology, and research. It extends middle-class tax cuts so hard-working families can invest more of their income in the economy rather

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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